# CITY OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT OCTOBER 28, 2014 – 11:00 A.M. CITY HALL SECOND CONFERENCE ROOM 1737 MAIN STREET



Members of the Columbia City Council conducted a Public Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman (Chair) called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. The Honorable Sam Davis and The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan were present.

### **APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

No one appeared at this time.

# **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

# 1. Police Department Update

Mr. Melron Kelly, Deputy Police Chief gave an update on the overall citywide crime statistics. Year-to-date, there have been eight (8) homicides, which is a 2% increase from 2013; 10% decrease in robberies; and 0.27% increase in aggravated assaults. He said six hundred seventy-eight (678) violent crimes have been reported so far in 2014, which is a 2.87% decrease from 2013. He pointed out that the biggest crime rate reductions have been in the South Region (Garner Ferry Road, Five Points and Forest Drive). He gave an update on the top two (2) crimes rated areas. The Belmont neighborhood; so far, one hundred seventeen (117) cases were initiated, which includes: ten (10) vehicle break-ins; eighteen (18) vacant homes; seven (7) care of lots; fourteen (14) housing cases; one (1) front yard parking case; and two (2) commercial lots; and the remaining cases were cited in 2013. He pointed out that one hundred forty-eight (148) new property cases have been reported in the Waites Road/Garners Ferry Road areas, which includes: thirty-five (35) abandoned vehicles; forty (40) uncared premises; ten (10) vacant lots; thirty-nine (39) housing cases; twelve (12) front yard parking cases; and twelve (12) commercial cases. He said the department is prepared for the upcoming holidays; officers will be in place at various neighborhoods that will host evening events; and there will be patrol staff around the larger commercial areas.

The committee received this report as information. No action was taken.

### 2. Consideration for Evening Traffic Court

Ms. Dana Turner, Chief Administrative Judge for Municipal Court said the idea of considering an evening court has been contemplated in the past and staff supports the concept. She said the court operates around the police officer's schedule and the evening court will have to accommodate the officers who work night shift to help to avoid overtime. Staff recommends operating the evening court once a month.

There was a consensus of the committee to draft a proposal for the expenditures and staffing related to operating an evening court and to bring back the recommendations to the full Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Submitted by:

Niki Daniels, City Clerk's Assistant Office of the City Clerk